

Hilleman Lab scouts for partners to make vaccines

MUMBAI, PTI: Hilleman Laboratories on Friday said it is looking to tie up with vaccine specialty companies and government agencies to fund a Rs 300 project for developing low cost vaccines in India.

Hilleman is a 50:50 joint venture fund between MSD Pharmaceuticals and UK-based Wellcome Trust.

"We are spending around Rs 300 crore over the next 4-5 years to develop low cost vaccines. We are developing vaccines to treat rotavirus, cholera and meningitis," Hilleman Laboratories CEO Davinder Gill said.

"For research, we are looking for partner's namely pharma companies, vaccine specialty companies and government agencies to collaborate and fund the project. We had received foundational grants from MSD Pharmaceuticals and Wellcome Trust, but now

we want to be financially independent," Gill said.

MSD Pharmaceuticals and Wellcome Trust have invested around Rs 700 crore nearly five years ago, which is now valued at around Rs 900 crore.

"As per the development plan, the company will use its in-house formulation technology, while MSD would provide components of its existing rotavirus vaccine," Gill said.

"Normally there is a large investment required for creating vaccines. We, however, has taken an approach that will allow the vaccine to be created at a lesser cost thus providing a boost to vaccine manufacturers on creating low cost next-generation vaccines using synthetic platform technology," he added. The company is developing synthetic vaccine to fight growing meningitis for Asian, African and Latin American countries.

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